

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 294122

11

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 DODE-00 ACDA-07

SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /063 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY:DH
APPROVED BY AF: AMB. SEELYE
AF/S:DKEOGH
AF/I -FWIRKUS
PM/MC:BFEMMINELLA (INFO)
EUR/NE -SWORREL
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
DOD/ISA

----- 103291

P R 022255Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 294122

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, US, UK

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA PURCHASE OF AR-18 RIFLES

REF: (A) GABORONE 2207; (B) GABORONE 2202; (C) GABORONE
2183; (D) STATE 272756; (E) GABORONE 2008

1. CONTINUED INCURSIONS BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES INTO
BOTSWANA PROMPTED PRESIDENT KHAMA TO ANNOUNCE IN HIS
NOV 29 SPEECH OPENING PARLIAMENT THAT HE IS CONSIDERING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 294122

STRENGTHENING BOTSWANA'S PARAMILITARY POLICE MOBILE UNIT.

THIS WOULD INVOLVE IMPROVED WEAPONRY, WHICH GOB OFFICIALS
HOPE TO OBTAIN FROM WESTERN SOURCES.

2. GOB HAS ALREADY ATTEMPTED TO PURCHASE 400 AR-18
AUTOMATIC RIFLES FROM STERLING ARMAMENT CO OF THE UK.
BECAUSE STERLING HAS LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH ARMALITE
INC. OF CALIFORNIA, THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF MUNITIONS
CONTROL WAS REQUIRED TO APPROVE SALE, WHICH IT DID ON
JULY 8. REF C NOTES THAT WEAPONS HAVE NOT BEEN SHIPPED
BECAUSE HMG REPORTEDLY DOES NOT WANT TO "START AN ARMS
BUILDUP" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. EMBASSY LONDON IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS WITH FCO THE GOB

REQUEST IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THE SHIPMENT OF THE RIFLES.
THIS RELATIVELY SMALL ARMS TRANSFER WILL ENHANCE THE GOB'S
ABILITY TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS AND ASSIST PRESIDENT
KHAMA IN DEFUSING OPPOSITION CHARGES THAT HE IS NOT
PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF THE NATION. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, PROTECTIVE SECURITY, INVASIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE294122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RPERRY:DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760447-0701
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761277/aaaacpdm.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 2207, 76 GABORONE 2202, 76 GABORONE 1976
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA PURCHASE OF AR-18 RIFLES
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, US, UK
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006